

ANNETTE ISLAND FISHERY RESERVE.

On April 23, 1916, a presidential proclamation was made creating the Annette Island Fishery Reserve in southeastern Alaska whereby Annette Island and certain smaller islands off its coast, together with the surrounding waters, were set apart for the exclusive benefit of the Metlakatla Indians and any other Alaskan natives who might associate themselves and live with them. The Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior, has charge of the administrative affairs within the reserve. The most valuable asset thus secured to the natives is the fishery wealth of the region. To derive the greatest benefit therefrom a plan to lease fishing privileges in the reserve to the company making the most advantageous offer was adopted. The first lease was made with P. E. Harris & Co., of Seattle, Wash., but owing to the loss of <sup>(by fire)</sup> the cannery on the island ~~by fire~~ nothing was done by that company. A second lease was then made, ~~and~~ with the Annette Island Packing Co. of Seattle, under the terms of which the company was authorized to erect a cannery on Annette Island. ~~and~~ It was required to pay a permit fee of \$100 per annum for each fish trap operated in the reserve, ~~and~~ to pay a royalty of 1 cent per fish for each salmon <sup>caught</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>in</sup> those waters, and to give a guarantee that not less than \$6,000 would be paid to the natives <sup>annually</sup> ~~for each year~~ during the <sup>five years of the</sup> ~~continuance~~ of the lease which was to run for five years.

Six traps were operated in the reserve for which a permit fee of \$600 was paid. A total of 1,196,669 salmon was taken by these appliances, for which the natives received a royalty of \$11,966. In addition to this return, the natives were paid \$12,023 for 196,012 salmon which they took with purse seines and sold to the packing company. The natives thus received as a direct return from the fisheries of the reserve a total of \$24,589. Over

and above this amount, further disbursements of several thousand dollars were made to them on account of labor in the cannery and during its construction.